Importance to production of pulses, legumes and oil seeds

4127. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more importance is to be given to production of pulses, legumes and oil seeds for sustained food security of the country;

(b) if so, how Government plan to tackle the situation; and

(c) if not, how Government plan to meet the balance and nutritional needs of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) are under Implementation in the Country to increase the production and productivity of pulses, legumes and oil seeds respectively. In addition, in the context of doubling food production & making India hunger free in ten years, an Action Plan for increasing the production of pulses, legumes and oilseeds during 9th and 10th Plan has been prepared on the basis of production targets set out by Planning Commission. The targets of pulses and oilseeds have been fixed by Planning Commission at 20 million tonnes and 30 million tonnes respectively for the year 2007-2008.

(c) Question does not arise.

Loan Facilities to Farmers

4128. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps being taken by Government to improve the loan facilities to the poor and marginal farmers in the country;

(b) whether Government are formulating a new loaning policy for the Arunachal Pradesh farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) With a view to improving the loan facilities to the poor and marginal farmers in the country, the following steps have been taken by RBI/NABARD:—